

CLAIMS

1. A network for distributing information (1), between a central unit (19) and stations (3-18), comprising information splitting devices (20-22) with inputs/outputs connected on the one hand to the central unit (19) and on the other hand to the stations (3-18), an interface device (23-38) in each station, characterized in that the interface device (23-38) of each station (3-18) is linked to a first splitting device and to a second splitting device.

2. The network as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that several interface devices are mounted in cascade on a link starting from a splitting device.

3. The network as claimed in one of claims 1 to 2, characterized in that an interface device comprises a means for detecting a fault relating to a problem on a link between this interface device and the first or the second splitting device.

4. The network as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the means for detecting faults comprises means for mutual acknowledgement with the central unit.

5. The network as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that it comprises a device (48) for switching over from the first splitting device to the second splitting device.

6. The network as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the switching device (48) is in the central unit (19).

7. The network as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that a link between a splitting device and an interface device is effected with a cable (39) having two twisted conductors.

8. The network as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that a splitting device is linked by a link connected to one of its inputs/outputs (55-57) to a single special interface device (53, 54), this

special interface device being linked by another link connected to another input/output (58-60) of another splitting device.

9. The network as claimed in one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that each splitting device is capable of supporting a bit rate greater than a nominal bit rate.

10. The network as claimed in one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that addresses used to identify elements of the network comprise fields of which a first field makes it possible to identify a group of stations connected to a splitting device identified by a second field and that a modification of a value of the second field makes it possible to connect a group of stations to another splitting device.

11. A process for splitting the effects of a fault in a network for distributing information among terminals

characterized in that

- N splitting devices are linked, according to a star topology, to a central unit with the aid of transport means over each of which a primary stream travels, to a splitting device of rank m there corresponds a primary stream FP_m ,

- the splitting devices are furnished with first inputs/outputs A_1 to A_i and with second inputs/outputs B_1 to B_j ,

- the first inputs/outputs A_1 to A_i of a splitting device K are linked by buses K_1 to K_i to the second inputs/outputs B_1 to B_i of a consecutive splitting device K + 1, with $1 \leq K \leq N$,

- terminals are linked in cascade to each bus K_1 to K_i ,

- the first inputs/outputs A_1 to A_i of the splitting devices 1 to N are activated,

- upon a fault between a terminal linked by a splitting device K to the central unit, a first input/output A_1 to A_i of the splitting device K is deactivated,

